

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1 – 10: Cancelled

11. (currently amended) An extruder having a transfer region and comprising:

an extruder sleeve-12 that in said transfer region is provided with first ribs-20, wherein flow channels-22 extend between said ribs; and

an extruder screw-14 disposed in said extruder sleeve-12 and provided with second ribs-46 between which extend flow channels-18 that face said flow channels-22 of said extruder sleeve-12, wherein said first ribs-20 of said extruder sleeve-12 have a ridge that faces said extruder screw-14, wherein said ridge has a width that corresponds to at least one third of a width of said flow channels-22 of said extruder sleeve-12, and wherein between ridges of said second ribs-46 of said extruder screw-14 and said ridges of said first ribs-20 of said extruder sleeve-12 a gap-24 is formed that corresponds to greater than 0.5% of a diameter of said extruder screw-14, and wherein a width of the first ribs of the extruder sleeve is increased approximately to a width of the second ribs of the extruder screw.

12. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said ridges of said first ribs-20 of said extruder sleeve-12 respectively have a width of at least one half of said width of said flow channels-22 of said extruder sleeve.

13. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said ridges of said first ribs-20 of said extruder sleeve-12 respectively have a width of

approximately 80 to 100% of said width of said flow channels~~-22~~ of said extruder sleeve.

14. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap~~-24~~ corresponds to approximately one percent of the diameter of said extruder screw~~-14~~.

15. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap~~-24~~ has a width that corresponds to at least one of: at least two percent of the diameter of the extruder screw and at least 15% of the sum of heights of said first and second ribs~~-20, -16~~.

16. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein each of said ridges of said extruder sleeve~~-12~~ and said extruder screw~~-14~~ is provided with an incline~~-26, -28~~ in which said gap~~-24~~ is increased to at least 3% of the diameter of the extruder screw, and wherein a normal of said ridges is inclined relative to a direction of rotation of said extruder screw~~-14~~.

17. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 16, wherein said gap~~-24~~ is increased to more than 5% of the diameter of said extruder screw~~-14~~.

18. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 16, wherein an incline~~-28~~ of said ridge of said first ribs~~-20~~ of said extruder sleeve~~-12~~ is a portion of the width of said ridge.

19. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein said incline~~-28~~ is slightly more than one half of the width of said ridge.

20. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein said incline~~-28~~ is a forward three fifths of the width of said ridge when viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw~~-14~~.

21. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 18, wherein the ridges of said second ribs~~46~~ of said extruder screw~~44~~ are also provided with an incline.

22. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 21, wherein said incline of said ridges of said second ribs~~46~~ is provided at a forward edge as viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

23. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein the ridges of said ribs~~46, 48~~ of at least one of said extruder screw~~44~~ and said extruder sleeve~~12~~ are provided with a rounded portion or a bevel at a forward edge as viewed in a direction of rotation of said extruder screw.

24. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap~~24~~ is at least 0.5% in only a portion of said transfer region, and in a remainder of said transfer region is approximately 1% of the diameter of said extruder screw~~44~~.

25. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 11, wherein said gap 24 between said extruder screw~~44~~ and said extruder sleeve~~12~~ is a shear gap in which material that is to be extruded is subjected to elastic flows or shear flows.

26. (currently amended) An extruder comprising:

an extruder sleeve~~12~~ provided with first ribs~~20~~, wherein flow channels ~~22~~ extend between said ribs; and

an extruder screw~~44~~ that runs in said extruder sleeve~~12~~ and is provided with second ribs~~46~~, wherein flow channels~~48~~ extend between said second ribs, wherein said first and second ribs~~20, 46~~ have respective ridges having a width that corresponds to approximately one third of a width of said flow channels~~48~~ of said extruder screw~~44~~, and wherein a gap~~24~~ of at least 1mm is provided between

said extruder sleeve-12 and said extruder screw-14, and wherein a width of the first ribs of the extruder sleeve is increased approximately to a width of the second ribs of the extruder screw.

27. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said ridges of said ribs have a width that corresponds to approximately one half of the width of said flow channels-18 of said extruder screw-14.

28. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said ridges of said ribs have a width that corresponds to approximately 80 to 120% of the width of said flow channels-18 of said extruder screw-14.

29. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said gap-24 is between 1.5 and 3mm.

30. (currently amended) An extruder according to claim 26, wherein said gap-24 between said extruder screw-14 and said extruder sleeve-12 is a shear gap in which material that is to be extruded is subjected to elastic flows or shear flows.